

REMARKS

In this paper, claims 1, 2, 8, 12, 14, 15, 18, 26-28, 33-36 and 41 are currently amended. After entry of the above amendment, claims 1-44 are pending.

The applicant appreciates the indicated allowability of claims 14-16 if rewritten in independent form. Claims 14 and 15 have rewritten to be in independent form, including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, so it is believed that claims 14-16 are now allowable.

Claims 2, 12, 18 and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as not being properly enabled. Claims 2, 12, 18 and 33 have been amended to clarify that the different power characteristics are provided by the regulator.

Claims 1-9, 11-33 and 18-44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kitamura (US 6,418,041) in view of Copeland (US 5,015,918). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the first and second external terminals provide separate non-ground electrical signals for use by corresponding first and second electrical bicycle components. Independent claim 26 has been amended to clarify that first and second external output terminals are disposed on the housing to supply respective first and second different non-ground voltages from the regulator to respective first and second electrical bicycle components external to the housing. Independent claim 27 has been amended to clarify that an external output terminal is disposed on the housing in close proximity to each mounting member to supply regulated non-ground signals provided by the regulator to corresponding ones of a plurality of electrical bicycle components mounted to the plurality of mounting members. Independent claim 28 has been amended to clarify that an external output terminal is disposed on the housing to supply regulated non-ground signals provided by the regulator to each of a plurality of electrical bicycle components when individually mounted to the mounting member.

The office action refers to Kitamura's control panel (20) as a housing and refers to Kitamura's voltage regulator (43) as the claimed regulator. However, voltage regulator (43) is part of power supply (27) which, as stated at column 4, lines 47-51 of the Kitamura patent, is housed within control box (31). Thus, voltage regulator (43) is not supported by control panel (housing) (20) as required by claim 1. Furthermore, Kitamura's outputs (44, 45) are not disposed on housing (20) as alleged. As shown in Fig. 6, outputs (44, 45) are part of power supply (27) which, as noted above, is housed within control box (31), not in control panel (housing) (20).

In any event, independent claims 1 and 26-28 now recite plural non-ground signals provided by a regulator. Kitamura provides a single non-ground signal at terminal (44), and the same is true for Copeland. Thus, neither Kitamura nor Copeland disclose or suggest the subject matter presently claimed.

As for claims 2, 12 and 18, it is submitted that there is no basis to conclude that the signals provided to Kitamura's shift controller (9) and lamp controller (10a) have physically different power characteristics as recited in those claims. In fact, the same signal is provided to both components from regulator (43).

As for claim 6, Kitamura's components do not comprises a radio, a cell phone charger and a light (three different components). Kitamura discloses only a light. While the word "comprising" in a claim allows a claim to cover a device that contains elements in addition to the recited elements, all of the recited elements must be present in the prior art before a claim reads on that prior art.

As for claims 8 and 13, the office action refers to Figs. 2 and 3 of Kitamura as disclosing the recited mounting member(s). However, it is unknown what structures in those Figures constitute mounting members, so it is impossible to respond. It appears that no mounting members are disclosed. Since the mounting members play an important role in the configurations recited in many of the dependent claims, the examiner's assistance in this regard would be greatly appreciated. In any event, claim 8 has been amended to further clarify that the at least one of the first or second electrical bicycle components is carried by the housing and electrical signals are provided from the

at least one of the first external terminal or the second external terminal to the at least one of the first or second electrical bicycle components. Kitamura clearly does not show such a configuration.

As for claims 22 and 30, nowhere does Copeland disclose or suggest providing a shaped signal from a waveform shaping circuit as a *data signal* to an external terminal. Copeland provides only power signals. Identification of any alleged data signal is requested.

As for claim 35, Neither Kitamura nor Copeland discloses or suggests a third external terminal (a third one of 136a-136d, Fig. 6) to provide separate electrical signals to a third electrical bicycle component (a third one of 151-154), wherein the first, second and third external terminals are disposed in a row (Fig. 6). Fig. 4 of Kitamura is a schematic that does not represent actual physical structure, let alone the positioning of physical structure.

As for claim 44, that claim includes the features of claims 41 and 13. Neither Kitamura nor Copeland discloses or suggests mounting members or the positioning of external terminals relative to such mounting members. As noted above, no mounting members have been identified, and Fig. 4 of Kitamura is a schematic that does not represent actual physical structure, let alone the positioning of physical structure.

As for claims 36, 37, 41 and 42, claims 36 and 41 have been amended to clarify that a mounting member projects from a surface of the housing and is structured to detachably connect at least one of the first or second electrical bicycle components externally to the housing such that the at least one of the first or second electrical bicycle components cannot be detached in a direction substantially perpendicular to the surface of the housing. As noted above, no mounting member has been identified in Kitamura. Furthermore, Copeland discloses pieces (69) and (70) that contain various electrical components *inside* of the space formed by those pieces. Neither Kitamura nor Copeland discloses or suggests the subject matter presently claimed.

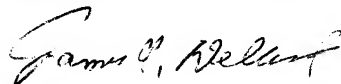
As for claims 38 and 43, Copeland neither discloses nor suggests a mounting member with a dovetail shape. Identification of such a structure in Copeland is requested.

As for claim 39, Copeland neither discloses nor suggests a first external terminal disposed on a housing at a first side of a mounting member, wherein a second external terminal is disposed on the housing at an opposite second side of the mounting member. Both external terminals are disposed on the same side of piece (60). It is also unclear how those teachings would be applied to Kitamura, since no mounting members have been identified in Kitamura.

Claims 10 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kitamura and Copeland in view of Murashige, et al. This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed for the same reasons noted above.

Accordingly, it is believed that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103 and §112 have been overcome by the foregoing amendment and remarks, and it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested. Allowance of all claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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